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## **Clock Spring pipeline repair saves time, money, hassle**

A pipeline repair technique using a Clock Spring device is saving Columbia Gulf time and money while at the same time expanding employee knowledge and expertise and virtually eliminating potential negative impacts on customer service.

The latest application of the technique occurred in CGT's Stanton Area in late January. It may have been the first use of the device within Columbia's transmission segment since the U.S. Department of Transportation's new pipeline repair rule, approving the process, went into effect Jan. 13, 2000. Prior to this new rule, pipelines had to obtain a waiver from the DOT to use the Clock Spring procedure.

Working with teams from Stanton and Morehead, Corrosion Specialists Dennis Amburgey, David Jones and Tracy Turner repaired a gouge in Columbia Gulf's 30-inch Mainline 100 caused by a third party using an auger to install a power pole. The trio received certification in the technique from a Clock Spring representative while the repair work was under way, meaning they can now oversee installation of the device if its needed in other areas of CGT's pipeline system. Ed Hoffpauir, corrosion specialist, Rayne, is also certified.

"The Clock Spring gets its name from the fact that it looks like the spring commonly found in clocks," explained Henry Wang, manager, Codes and Standards. "A type of permanent repair sleeve, the device is made of a composite material and epoxy, and is wrapped around the damaged area. Bursting tests have shown that when properly applied, the area of the pipe wrapped with a Clock Spring is stronger than the original pipe."

Wang said he believes this is the third time CGT has installed the device, which is also in use at Columbia Gas Transmission.

"It's a very labor and time-saving process," said Amburgey. "It takes about two days to repair a pipeline with a Clock Spring, versus a week or more using conventional methods. Usually you can install the device without shutting in the pipeline, and, therefore, you don't have the potential for reductions in deliveries or other negative effects on customer service."